

WANDERERS FADE AFTER MINUTE OF SOCCER MAGIC

By "ARGUS"

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Kingstonian 0

If fickle Wycombe Wanderers could only have sustained the concentrated magic of the first 60 seconds of this home Isthmian League encounter they would have swamped Kingstonian by a cricket score, sent Loakes Park fans home in ecstasy and roared for once and all that sweet soccer science can lick powerhouse football from Wy-

combe to Wolverhampton and back again!

Alas, the Wanderers didn't. The supermen from Kingston, possibly the fittest team in the League, were gradually able to grind down Wycombe and take the offensive for much of the second half, even when they lost winger Davies with a split eyebrow.

Wycombe began brilliantly, the ball snuggling in the back of the Kingstonian net within a minute of the kick off, after a goal which merits a column in itself.

Acting like a born inside forward, Paul Bates dissected the square-lying K's defence with a through ball to young Gerald Free. Dummyming and side-stepping inside, Free flashed the perfect on-the-carpet pass into the centre and there was Peter James, with virtually his first League kick for the Wanderers, snapping the ball past goalkeeper Jeffcoate with all the casualness in the world.

A combination of Raich Carter, Stanley Matthews and Tommy Lawton could have done no better.

But the Wycombe forwards fell away noticeably after this bright start. Their movements

Lanky Ken Brown takes over the goalkeeping job from Dennis Syrett in the Wycombe Wanderers team which travels to Ilford tomorrow to the Isthmian League.

The team will be — K. Brown; J. Beck, J. Moring; J. Truett, J. Fisher, R. Fryer; D. Atkins, C. Trott, P. James, P. Bates and G. Free. The kick-off will be at 3 p.m.

Loakes Park is the venue for the Wanderers Reserves game with Ilford Reserves and there will be a "new look" about the Wycombe team with Jack Tomlin at wing half and Michael Rockell operating in the centre. (Kick-off, 3 p.m.)

Team — D. Syrett; D. Worley, J. Webb; J. Tomlin, K. Crook, B. Daryll; B. Sandland, D. Phillips, M. Rockell, R. Howson and P. Ellis.

centre-forward Hopkins like the hound of the Baskervilles.

Unfortunately for the Wanderers, wing halves Jimmy Truett and Ron Fryer have still to find their dynamite in the tackle and their ability to take the ball forward to the consternation of the opposing defence.

TOTTING UP

After Wycombe's opening onslaught it seemed a matter of totting up the goals. Dennis Atkins, the man with the big shot, looked always likely to score and he quickly warmed Jeffcoate's palms.

James hooked a Trott pass unluckily past a post and then Atkins did what he had been threatening to do. A free kick was awarded for a foul on Trott, Truett jumped over the ball and Atkins slammed home a glorious shot from way outside the area.

With Kingstonian demoralised, a third goal should have followed. For the second successive Saturday John Beck faced a goalkeeper from the other side of the penalty spot. This time John failed, angling a fast drive onto the face of a goalpost.

PAST PACE

Kingstonian, pep-talked at half time, came out fighting for the second half. Never relaxing the fast pace they had set from the start the K's began to dominate, but not before Ashworth had had to fly through the air to keep out a dangerous Trott centre and Bates, Free and Trott had all had shots blocked within seconds in front of the visitor's goal.

A pile-driver from wing half Wilson, just wide, and a header from Coates onto the crossbar added up to bad luck for Kingstonian.

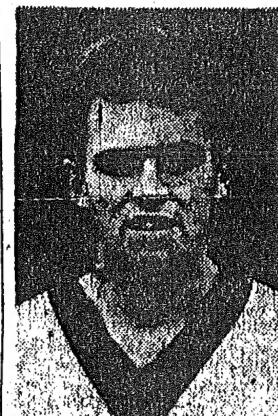
Even when Davies was led off the field dazed and bleeding, his cut head swathed in a towel, Kingstonian kept up the pressure, full back Bird typifying the spirit with a dash up-field, a dribble by three Wycombe defenders and a drive into the arms of Dennis Syrett.

The Wycombe team was; D. Syrett, J. Beck, J. Moring; J. Truett, J. Fisher, R. Fryer; D. Atkins, C. Trott, P. James, P. Bates and G. Free.

FADED

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Once again, Wycombe's man-of-the-match was John Fisher. Positioning superbly, clearing the ball remorselessly, he dogged



Peter James
Scored with his first kick

became over-fussy and elaborate and there was a strange reluctance to shoot.

Big newcomer Peter James impressed early on but became a solitary figure as the game progressed, an unhappy victim of a line centre-half in Ashworth.

Kingstonian's keen tackling gradually subdued the home inside forwards and Cliff Trott, for him, had a very moderate game. Experimental inside-left Paul Bates, wandered industriously in his unaccustomed position. Time will tell if he is the answer to the Wanderers pressing need for a scheming inside man.

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